

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 09811 271831Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3056
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9811

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH TZOUNIS ABOUT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

1. DURING MY DISCUSSION WITH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS OCTOBER 27, HE BROUGHT UP MILLIYET
JOURNALIST BIRAND'S REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON AND ASKED WHETHER
THERE WAS ANYTHING TO HIS CLAIMS ABOUT A NEW U. S. SCENARIO
FOR CYPRUS. FOLLOWING THE GUIDANCE IN STATE 255572, I REPLIED
THAT THERE WAS NEITHER A U. S. PLAN NOR ANY SPECIFIC TURKISH
COMMITMENTS ON CYPRUS, ALTHOUGH OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TURKS
HAD MADE US MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE.
I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THAT AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS HAD BEEN
BRIEFED AS FULLY AS WE HAD ON THIS MATTER AND THAT HE WAS
PROBABLY IN A BETTER POSITION THAN WE TO STAY ABREAST OF
DEVELOPMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I MENTIONED SECRETARY
CLIFFORD'S ILLNESS, WHICH TZOUNIS WAS NOT AWARE OF, AND SAID
HE WAS NOW EXPECTED BACK IN HIS OFFICE SHORTLY, TO CONTINUE
HIS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING NEW
IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY, TZOUNIS SAID AMBASSADOR
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TEZEL STILL HAD NOT PRESENTED THE TURKISH RESPONSE TO THE GREEK
PROPOSALS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF MADE LAST JUNE. WHEN I COMMENTED
THAT THIS MIGHT BE BECAUSE BITSIOS HAD SUGGESTED TO CAGLAYANGIL
IN NEW YORK THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER
GREEK ELECTIONS, TZOUNIS SUPRISINGLY SAID THAT ON THE CONTRARY
THE GOG WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKEY AT
THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL RIGHT THROUGH THE ELECTIONS IN PREPARATION

FOR FURTHER MEETINGS OF THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING IN STRASBOURG IN LATE NOVEMBER AND THE NATO MINISTERIAL IN BRUSSELS IN DECEMBER. I ASKED WHETHER THIS SIGNIFIED A CHANGE FROM WHAT BITSIOS HAD TOLD CAGLAYANGIL. WITHOUT REPLYING DIRECTLY, TZOUNIS AGAIN ASSERTED THAT THE GOG WAS PREPARED TO TO CONTINUE THE TALKS AT ANYTIME AND THAT THE NEXT MOVE WAS UP TO THE TURKS.

MILLS

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Message Attributes

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